

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8, and 24-29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 5 are amended, claims 4, 7, and 9-23 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 24-29 are added. Support for the claims can be found throughout the specification, including the original claims, and the drawings. Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 4 and 7 contain allowable subject matter. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 4 and independent claim 5 has been amended to include the allowable features of claim 7. Claims 4 and 7 have been canceled. Accordingly, independent claims 1 and 5 should be in condition for allowance along with claims 2-3, 6, and 8, which depend respectively therefrom.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being allegedly indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Each of the Examiner's comments has been addressed in amending the claims. Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-3, 5, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over JP 2000-248358 to Sadabetto, and claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Sadabetto in view of EP 887434 to Smith. These rejections are moot in view of the amendments as discussed above.

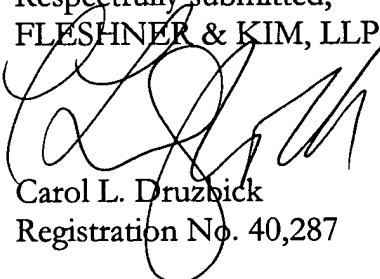
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Added claims 24-29 are similar to claims 1-3, 5-6, and 8 and thus should also be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Carol L. Druzbeck**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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